

By: Ellis

S.C.R. No. 31

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Access to affordable health care is one of the most
3 critical issues facing the State of Texas and the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Health care is the largest and fastest-growing
5 industry in Texas, employing 1.3 million workers in more than 200
6 careers; and

7 WHEREAS, The University of Houston enrolls 11,000 students
8 and confers 1,800 degrees in 97 health-related degree programs
9 annually; and

10 WHEREAS, The health sciences represent 27 percent of the
11 University of Houston's enrollment, 24 percent of the degrees
12 awarded, and 23 percent of the health-related degrees awarded in
13 the region; and

14 WHEREAS, The University of Houston's annual research awards
15 in the health sciences total \$40.5 million, 38 percent of the
16 university's total research funding, and annual royalty income from
17 commercialized drugs totals \$12 million; and

18 WHEREAS, The University of Houston's clinical programs in
19 optometry, pharmacy, clinical psychology, social work, and other
20 fields treat over 30,000 patients annually, many of them indigent
21 and uninsured, and these programs generate over \$3 million in
22 revenue; and

23 WHEREAS, The University of Houston is a member of the Texas
24 Medical Center and has built numerous productive collaborations

1 with other member institutions; and

2 WHEREAS, By virtue of its educational, research, clinical,
3 and community outreach programs, the University of Houston is one
4 of the most important contributors to health care and the health
5 sciences in the region and state; and

6 WHEREAS, Organizing the University of Houston's
7 health-related programs as part of a health science center will
8 enhance the university's ability to address regional and state
9 health care needs, spur innovation in the delivery of health care,
10 reduce disparity in access to health care, elevate the university's
11 visibility as a leader in the health sciences, and further the
12 university's goal of attaining tier one status; and

13 WHEREAS, Organizing the University of Houston's
14 health-related programs as part of a health science center will
15 result in a more efficient use of state resources by maximizing
16 opportunities for collaboration across the entire university for
17 the benefit of the people of Texas; and

18 WHEREAS, Recognizing the breadth, impact, and potential of
19 the University of Houston's health-related programs, the
20 University of Houston System Board of Regents has approved the
21 creation of a health science center at the University of Houston;
22 now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby support the University of Houston System Board of Regents'
25 creation of a health science center at the University of Houston.